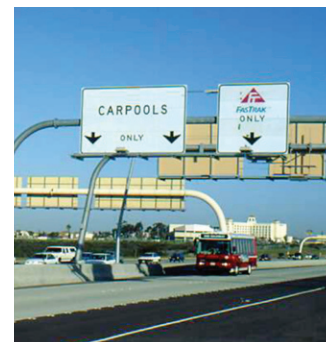


I-85 EXPRESS LANES: EQUITY

Surveys conducted on High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes have concluded that a broad spectrum of income groups approve of congestion pricing because they are given the choice of selecting a tolled route, an alternative route, or a different mode of transportation. Furthermore, transit riders actually experience faster and more reliable transit trips with HOT lanes.

Findings from recent surveys and/or reports include:

- Focus groups and surveys conducted in 2008 by Georgia Tech, regarding potential HOT lanes in the Atlanta metropolitan region, asked participants about their willingness to pay for a trip on the HOT lane and how often they expected to use it. The researchers found that both low and high income respondents were willing to pay nearly the same amount for a trip on the HOT lane. Furthermore, the number of times per week that respondents expected to use the HOT lane was very similar among low, medium, and high income participants.
- In San Diego, there was 60 percent support for the FasTrak Express Lane on I-15 amongst those persons with incomes of less than \$40,000.
- Studies on State Route 91 in southern California have shown that at any given time about three-quarters of the vehicles in the toll lanes belong to low- and middle-income individuals with only one-quarter of the vehicles belonging to high-income individuals. According to data collected on Express Lanes in California, low-income drivers are as likely to approve of the lanes as drivers with higher incomes. In fact, over half of the commuters (51 percent) with household incomes under \$25,000 a year approved of toll lanes.
- A 2006 survey on the I-394 MnPASS Express Lanes in Minnesota revealed that MnPASS usage was reported across all income levels, including 55 percent of lower-income respondents. The survey also revealed support for the lanes to be high across all income levels including 64 percent of lower-income respondents.



Source: U. S. Department of Transportation

For more information, please visit:
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